

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/709,607

Examiner

Ives Wu

Applicant(s)

CHEN ET AL.

Art Unit

1797

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 08/08/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4 and 6-18.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

- (1). Applicants' Amendments and Remarks filed on 08/08/2007 have been received.

The rejections of claims 1-4, 6-18 in prior Office Action dated 05/08/2007 is withdrawn in view of the Amendments of 08/08/2007.

Allowable Subject Matter

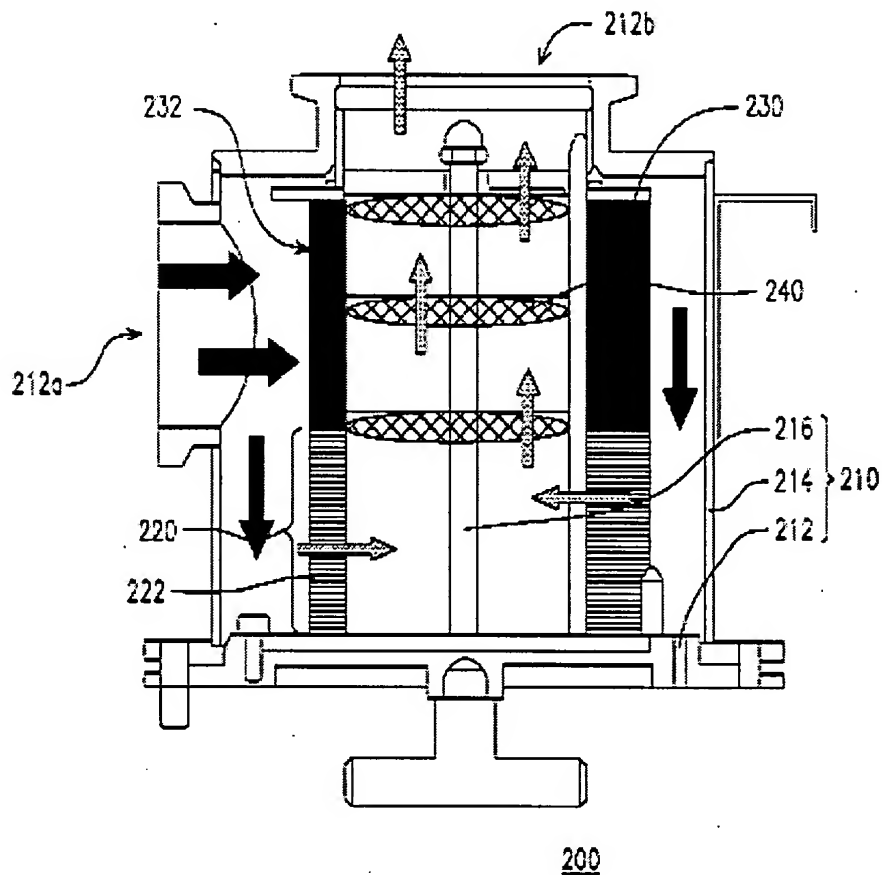
- (2). Claims 1-4 and 6-18 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The instant application is in the condition of allowance, in view of the structural design, where the disc filter set up directly on the base and gaseous exhaust enters the pipe trap from the gas inlet, passes through the outer wall of the pipe into the disc filter.

Features are illustrated in the following Figure:



The closest prior art located or identified by Examiner is Strauss (US05401404A), where the stacked disk coalescer is present:

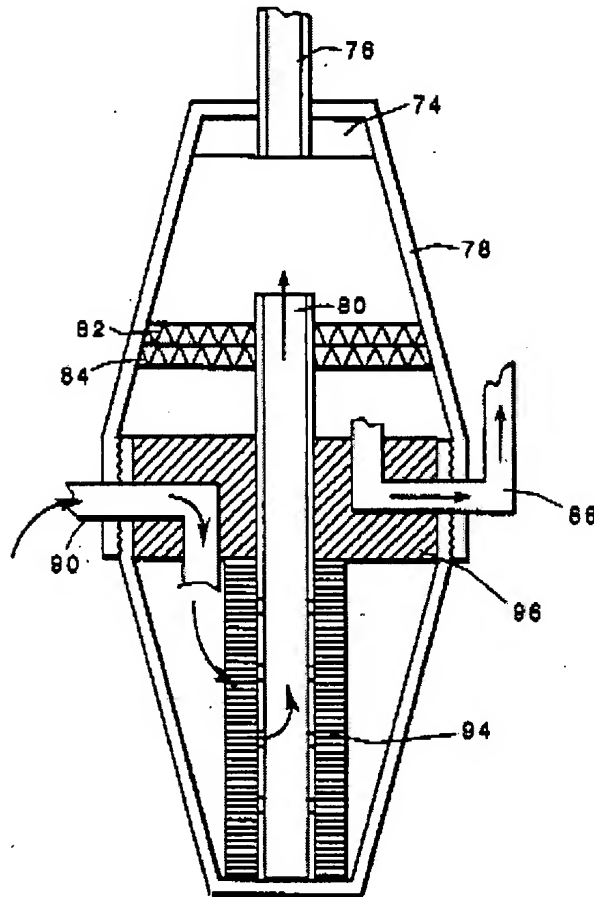
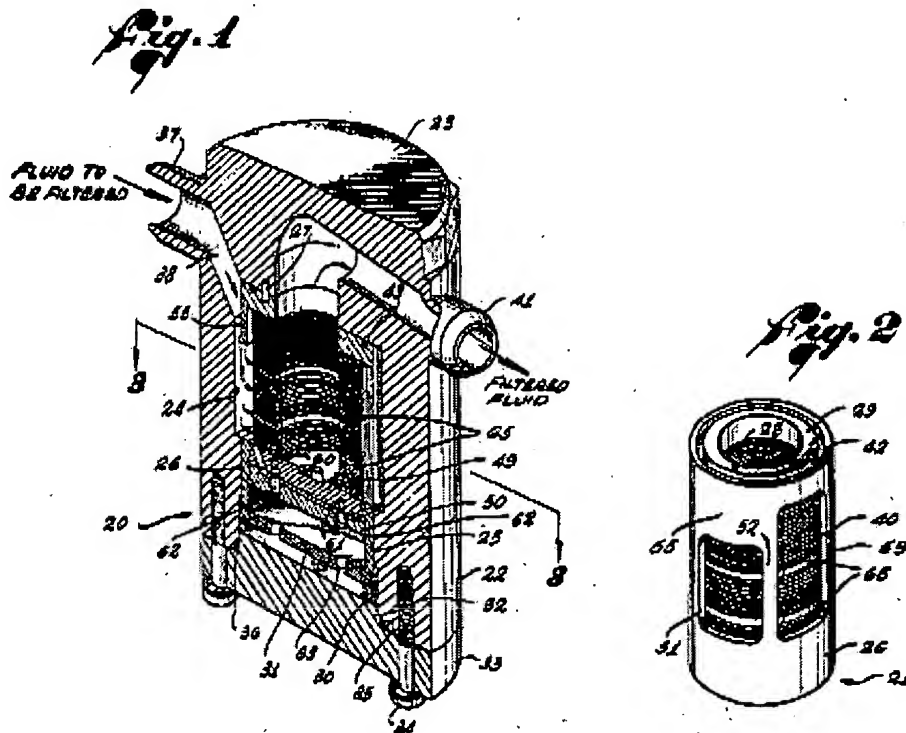


Figure 2

The pipe 90 is not directly upon the stacked disc filters 94, therefore, it is not a pipe trap as currently claimed by applicants.

2nd prior reference located by Examiner is Ronald Person (US03648843), where the stacked sheet filter assembly is illustrated in the following Figure:



The pipe Gasket is around the stacked disc filters, although the flange 29 may be considered as part of pipe, which sets up directly upon the stacked disc filter, but the gaseous exhaust enters without passing through the outer wall of the pipe, it just pass through the outer wall of pipe gasket in Figure 1 above.

Other related prior art reference such as Drori (US04642182), where the stacked disc filters are not directly upon the pipe. Therefore, instant claims 1-4, 6-18 are considered to be novel and patentable matters.

As to the date of this Notice of Allowability, Examiner has not located or identified any reference that can be used singularly or in combination with another reference including above-cited arts to render the present invention anticipated or obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ives Wu whose telephone number is 571-272-4245. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on 571-272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Examiner: Ives Wu
Art Unit: 1797
Date: 10/1/2007

DUANE SMITH
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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10-11-07